



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor
PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATION

JOHN HARJA
Director

May 19, 2010

Gil Hunt
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Subject: Rocky Ridge 33-1 well (wildcat) on Oil Well lease 00172361, Millard County
RDCC Project No. 11334

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The State of Utah, through the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO), has reviewed this project. Utah Code (Section 63J-4-601, *et. seq.*) designates PLPCO as the entity responsible to coordinate the review of technical and policy actions that may affect the physical resources of the state, and to facilitate the exchange of information on those actions among federal, state, and local government agencies. As part of this process, PLPCO makes use of the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC). The RDCC includes representatives from the state agencies that are generally involved or impacted by public lands management.

Division of Wildlife Resources

The subject oil lease is situated within a triangle connecting three important water bodies that are several miles apart: Clear Lake, DMAD Reservoir, and Gunnison Bend Reservoir. These water bodies attract large numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and other migrant bird species throughout the year. Species such as the lesser snow goose and American white pelican frequent the area, as there are numerous fields and water features that provide forage and cover.

Any holding ponds for produced water, drilling mud, or other open-pit water features developed in association with oil and gas installations could attract waterfowl and other birds leading to potential negative impacts. Appropriate stipulations for netting, covering, or otherwise deterring bird use of open-water features of oil and gas developments should be incorporated in lease terms. Alternatively, if only closed-pit water systems or enclosed tanks were authorized under the lease, the risk to migratory birds would be greatly reduced or eliminated. The Division of Wildlife Resources encourages the applicant to closely follow lease stipulations designed to protect waterfowl and other migrant birds from negative impacts.

There are no current records within the lease parcel for any Utah sensitive species. However, the lease parcel and surrounding area is suitable for numerous species that use the desert scrub/greasewood habitat type. Sensitive species that could be impacted include the dark kangaroo mouse, ferruginous hawk, kit fox, and burrowing owl. The potential occurrence of the aforementioned sensitive species may warrant wildlife surveys prior to any on-site development. The applicant is also encouraged to report to Division of Wildlife Resources any birds that are found dead or injured as a result of the installation.

The State of Utah appreciates the opportunity to review this proposal and we look forward to working with you on future projects. Please direct any other written questions regarding this correspondence to the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office at the address below, or call Judy Edwards at (801) 537-9023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Harja". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Harja" clearly distinguishable.

John Harja
Director